The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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True wisdom is the price of happiness.—Young.

WHOLE NO. 994. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 1930. FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 20, NO. 7.

"YELLOW DOG" JUDGE ATTACKED BY GREEN

Washington, April 26.—"Judge Parker proves that he believes in the 'yellow dog'," said President Green in reply to the Department of Justice defense of Parker's rule in the Red Jacket case.

Representatives of the department have coached Parker Senators, and the department's statement was issued from the White House.

"The decision of the Supreme Court which, it is alleged, Judge Parker followed, was rendered 13 years ago," said President Green. "Great changes in human relations in industry have taken place since that time. Labor holds that judges of our courts should take into consideration changed economic conditions and changed human relations in industry.

"A mere automatic adherence to judicial precedent established in a case decided during the World War period cannot be offered as convincing evidence of the qualifications of a man to serve on the highest judicial tribunal of the land.

"The evidence is conclusive that Judge Parker believes in the 'yellow dog'.

"The contract not only enslaved thousands of miners, but even forbade peaceful solicitation to join the union and prohibited the union from supplying financial assistance to enslaved workers of these corporations so that they could pay rent for the miserable homes in which they lived."

NATION CHALLENGED BY NEW RADIO TRUST

Washington, April 26.—"Organization of a six-billion-dollar radio trust is a challenge to the Department of Justice, to the Federal Trade Commission and to Congress," declared Oswald F. Schuette, executive secretary Radio Protective Association, in a public statement.

"For nine years the radio trust has been operating under a grant of immunity from Attorney General Daugherty," said Mr. Schuette. "It has undertaken to monopolize every line of radio—communication, broadcasting, manufacture, television and even the talking movies.

"Under pressure of the Senate, the Department of Justice is at last investigating this monopoly. There is something peculiarly defiant, therefore, in the shuffling of radio trust stock that proceeds to shift control of the radio trust to General Electric and Westinghouse companies. The status of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company is unchanged. The patent agreement under which the telephone monopoly is the most powerful factor in the radio trust remains as firm and as illegal as ever.

"Not even the new arrangement change the radio trust's relations to General Motors Corporation or to International Telephone and Telegraph Company.

"If Attorney General Mitchell does not act on the newest phase of this huge combination, the Senate should follow the precedent of the Teapot Dome case and force a dissolution of the radio trust by congressional action."

UNION PACIFIC POLICY OPPOSED BY UNIONISTS

Omaha, Neb., April 26.—The cheap wages, anti-union policy of the Union Pacific Railroad is being given nation-wide publicity by the local Central Labor Union.

The railroad is erecting a $4,000,000 terminal in this city under the contract system, it was announced. Sub-contractors must agree to employ non-union supervisors, to employ the nine and ten hour basis and have one-half of their employes non-union.

Since employes of this railroad are not permitted to organize, but must join a company "union."

Trade unionists and sympathizers are asked to recall these facts when Union Pacific agents request their patronage for excursions, conventions or shipment of freight.

BOMBING PLANE NEEDS NO GUIDE

San Francisco, April 26.—The Army Air Corps demonstrated that war can be waged from the air without human pilots.

Tests with a big army bomber reveal the possibility of sending these planes on cross-country trips, piloted only by machinery.

In a test with a nine-ton plane from Sacramento to this city the machine did all the navigating, keeping the plane on an even course, on the air route and maintaining the course with mechanical precision. The invention weighs less than 60 pounds and is installed in the forward cockpit.

EMPLOYMENT DROPS

Washington, April 26.—The widely-heralded prosperity that would appear at the turning of Spring has not appeared, according to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Reports from manufacturing and seven other major industrial groups showed a decrease in employment of one per cent in March, as compared with February, and a decrease in pay roll totals of one and one-half per cent.

March is supposed to usher in Spring prosperity.

BARBERS' LAW VOID

Springfield, Ill., April 26.—The State Supreme Court set aside the Illinois law which prohibits beauty shop operators, who are not licensed barbers, from trimming or cutting hair of patrons.

NO JUDGE IS IMMUNE FROM CRITICISM

The refusal of the Senate Judiciary Committee to confirm Judge Parker as a Supreme Court justice should silence reactionary elements that deny citizens the right to question such an appointment.

The Senate committee is composed of trained lawyers who are opposed to "packing" the Republic's highest tribunal with mediocre men who rule that a "yellow dog" is a valid contract.

Appointments like Parker's brings the judiciary into disrepute—not the citizens who object to such appointments.

Justice Edgecomb of the New York Supreme Court emphasized this point in an address to editors:

"I know of no reason why a judge is immune from criticism any more than any other official. I can conceive nothing so conducive to making a public official arrogant and overbearing than the knowledge that he will never be called to account for his actions. Even if criticism be caustic and more severe than is warranted, it does not constitute contempt of court unless it be of such a nature that it tends to obstruct the administration of justice and the proper performance of a judicial duty."

Judge Edgecomb made this statement when defenders of privilege claim organized labor brings the judiciary into disrepute because they oppose Judge Parker and his "yellow dog" decision.

Labor well knows what reaction talks of the "sacredness of our judiciary."

These forces consider courts an adjunct to privilege seeking. When the people object, the cry "sacred judiciary" is raised.

Under our system of government, there is no "sacred" public official—be he lawmaker, President or judge.

There are certain elemental rights that every man accepts. As long as a public official approximates this standard he will be supported at every test by the vast majority of citizens.

But that official must not expect his position gives him the right to do wrong, or that he can escape criticism by dust-raising tactics.

Such a policy will not strengthen popular faith in our Supreme Court. Men must not be secretly slid into the back door of our highest tribunal.

Confidence in our judiciary should be so deep-seated that citizens will rush to its defense. This is only possible when judges are without taint, whose qualifications are unquestioned and whose integrity and high regard for equal justice is unchallenged.

How can a worker have faith in a judge who upholds an illegal contract that has been wrung from him because he needs work to feed and shelter dependents?

To say that citizens shall not criticise such a judge is to mock American principles and to exalt the Fascist ideal.

"PLUCK-ME" STORES IN SOUTH AN AID TO ANTI-UNION SYSTEM

Birmingham, Ala., April 26.—Business men are objecting to commissary ("pluck-me") stores that are maintained by anti-union corporations throughout the South.

Organized workers emphasize the value of union conditions because of workers' high purchasing power, and note they point to these commissaries that are not permitted in unionized areas.

It is estimated that there are 225 of these concerns in Alabama. Their annual business totals $40,000,000. The operator of one of the largest department stores in Birmingham stated that if there were no commissaries in the Birmingham district 200 retail stores and 2,500 sales people would be needed to care for the trade.

The Tennessee Coal and Iron Company, a steel trust unit, maintains a "pluck-me" store at Ensley, a Birmingham suburb, for anti-union employes. This store did a $5,000,000 business last year and employed half a dozen salespeople. A Birmingham department store, which did a $5,000,000 business during the same period, employed 1,900 persons.

More than 100 local clergymen have told the story of organized labor by H. H. Emmons, representing the A. F. of L. The unionist was assigned that the Ministerial Association is in sympathy with the aims and purposes of organized labor and a resolution to this effect was taken under advisement.

Reports to the A. F. of L. Southern organizing committee indicate that so-called "white collar" workers find themselves in a desperately bad economic situation. Wages are low and work ng conditions poor. Retail business men are uniting to protect themselves against the "pluck-me" and chain store movement, and employes in retail stores are urged to organize.

The need for skilled organizers continues, and it is believed that President Green's suggestion to A. F. of L. national and international affiliates to assign every possible organizer to this sect on will prove fruitful.

THE WILY MR. EDGERTON

John E. Edgerton, president National Association of Manufacturers, knows the value of a confusing term.

He is a foe of organized labor, but in this age of combinations and mergers he is too wily to pose as an anti-unionist. He uses the confusing and untruthful "open" shop term to maintain his industrial anarchy.

The person who will not—or can not—think thus classes Edgerton as "fair." They accept his pious plea that he does not distinguish between organized and unorganized workers.

Edgerton also opposes the boycott—when used by organized labor. He says it it "un-American" when workers refuse to patronize opponents.

But when he favors the boycott he invents a new term to conceal his purpose.

He objects to American business men taking their plants to Europe and rightfully protests against these goods being sold in this country.

He advises citizens not to buy these goods, and calls this boycott "patriotic discrimination."

MAIL COST SYSTEM FAVORED IN HOUSE

Washington, April 26.—The Kelly bill, that would set up a new cost accounting system for the Post Office Department, was ordered reported favorably by the House Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads.

Under the bill, which has long been urged by organized postal workers, all expenditures contributing to a deficiency in postal revenue will be classified.

Postal workers insist that bureau chiefs in the department who oppose the Kelly bill are not sincere when they deplore post office deficits. This measure would separate free services and large subsidies to air plane service and the American Red Cross. It will be found, these postal workers declare, if post office costs were properly checked up, as the rule in every well regulated business, that deficits are largely caused by social services that bring the department no credit for, and subsidies that are intended to build up the air industry and the American Red Cross, neither of which have a direct bearing on the operation of the post office.

CAN'T FORCE JUDGES AFTER 70 TO RETIRE

Boston, April 26.—It is no imputation on good behavior to reach the age of 70, said the Supreme Judicial Court in holding unconstitutional a bill that would compel retirement at the age of 70 of judges appointed to hold office "during good behavior."

The decision points out that compulsory retirement takes no account of how great may be the physical and mental strength and vigor and energy of the judge.

The court upheld another provision of the act which makes retirement of judges optional after 15 years' service. These judges, however, can't be forced off the bench.

CO-OPERATIVE PLAN PROVING EFFECTIVE

Washington, April 26.—Union-management cooperation in the Naumkeag Cotton Company plant, Salem, Mass., benefits both parties, according to an account of this plan published in the Monthly Bulletin, issued by United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The plan was proposed by United Textile Workers, an A. F. of L. unit. Outside engineers worked out methods to reduce costs of labor.

"The result," says the Monthly Bulletin, "has been cooperation on an economical basis. The union has been given full representation in the setting of job standards."

Various conventions of the A. F. of L. have called attention to this cooperation between the United Textile Workers and the Naumkeag Company, which features the "Pequot" brand of sheets and pillow cases.

The American Wool and Cotton Reporter, an anti-union textile publication, recently made this comment on union-management cooperation that directly affects more than 2,000 employes:

"We understand that the Naumkeag management believe that they are ten jumps ahead of all competition in the fact that they are the only unionized (sheeting) mill and that the strength of this unionism is in the fact that the hundreds and thousands of union labor folks all over the United States buy 'Pequot' products."

SCRAPS NORRIS PLAN FOR MUSCLE SHOALS

Washington, April 26.—The Senate's plan to have the government operate Muscle Shoals is liable to be wrecked. The House Military Affairs Committee, which is handling the Senate bill, declared for the leasing of this water power to a private corporation, if such action is satisfactory to the power trust.

105 PER CENT PROFIT

Washington, April 26.—The Electric Bond and Share Company made a profit of 105 per cent on charges assessed public utilities under its re servs'on, according to Federal Trade Commission accountants.

The company is a unit of the power trust and has resisted every effort of the commission to examine its books.

Nation's Sea Power Destroyed By Ship Owners' Cheap Policy

Washington, April 26.—"The grade of seamanship on American vessels is growing poorer and poorer every year," Andrew Furuseth, president International Seamen's Union, told a sub-committee of the Senate Committee on Commerce that is holding hearings on the La Follette bill that would provide for the appointment of three commissioners on the Great Lakes.

"The present tendency is to turn the sea into a sewer where society throws it off," said Mr. Furuseth, who declared that "real seamen are as scarce as hens' teeth."

The unionist told the committee that in 1927 he sailed aboard the Leviathan and "was astounded at the ignorance of seamen's duties and customs among the members of the crew. Some of them couldn't even coil a rope," he said.

The number of seamen treated in hospitals for accidents has doubled during the last five years, which "demonstrates that seamen are not being employed. Ship owners are going out among the army of the unemployed and picking up anybody," Furuseth declared. "Three-fourths of the accidents which occur are among the unlicensed men, while now that seamen who have ambition to be recognized as experienced seamen have not been enough to take care of themselves."

Referring to the Vestris disaster, Mr. Furuseth declared that in order to the accident was caused by poor loading and an inefficient crew. "Loading is two more duties in order to load the cargo in and out cheaper," he declared, adding that the British Board of Trade has upheld his charges.

The only way to remedy the situation, he said, is to establish commissioners' offices under government supervision, furnishing a central place to employ seamen. The present plan of private employment is and will continue to be full of corruption, he said.

WHITES ARE DISPLACED BY FILIPINO WORKERS

San Francisco, April 26.—"Many employers prefer Filipino workers because they are willing to accept longer hours, poorer board and worse lodging facilities," said Will J. French, director State Department of Industrial Relations, in a report on Filipinos in California.

From 1920 to 1929, the report states, 31,092 Filipinos were admitted into this State through Los Angeles and San Francisco. About 85 per cent were brought in vessels operated by two California steamship companies.

These Filipinos are in hotel, restaurant and domestic occupations and in agriculture. The industrial field is also being invaded by the newcomers, who accept long hours and low wages.

"Where a white worker may be restive because of bad working conditions, the Filipino is satisfied to stay on the job," says Mr. French.

GEORGIA UNIONISTS BACK UNITY CAMPAIGN

Waycross, Ga., April 26.—The resources of organized labor in this State was pledged to the A. F. of L. Southern organizing campaign by the annual convention of the Georgia Federation of Labor. The per capita tax was raised to secure more funds for this movement.

The resolution, unanimously adopted, followed an address by Paul J. Smith, chairman of the A. F. of L. committee.

"The workers will get out of this campaign just what they put in it," said Mr. Smith, who gave a general survey of the activities in the New England, southern states and declared that the crying need is for more organizers.

President Petry of the State Federation of Labor called attention to wide-spread unemployment, which is the most serious problem facing the country. He urged greater activity in favor of the shorter week and against the injunction in labor disputes.

MILLIONS FOR HYDRO IS VOTED BY ONTARIO

Toronto, Ontario, April 26.—While the United States is discussing government ownership of Muscle Shoals, this province is extending its provincial-owned hydro-electric plant.

The government has taken over the Dominion Power Company at a cost of $21,000,000. The Foshay interests in Bruce county have also been taken over at a cost of $252,000.

The legislature, which has just adjourned, voted $49,000,000 to extend this government-owned power system. This expenditure represents about 41 per cent of the total appropriations, which will be returned many fold, legislators claim.

JOBLESS AT PEAK

New York, April 26.—Never before has so many "white collar" wage earners been out of work, according to a local visiting nurse service.

The occupations range from importer to taxi driver, from rag peddler to musician. Some have been out of work only a few weeks and some for months. Thirty per cent are unskilled laborers.

AUTO INSURANCE ILLEGAL

Boston, April 26.—The State Supreme Court ruled that a compulsory motor vehicle insurance fund, maintained by the State, would be unconstitutional. The court's opinion was asked by the State Senate, which is considering such a law.

POSTAL LEASE PROBE FAVORED BY SENATORS

Washington, April 26.—A Senate committee made a favorable report on Mr. Blaine's proposal that post office leases be investigated.

The probe may weaken the position of post office officials who mournfully point to mounting deficits and plead that the department be placed on a "business basis." It is shown that the department agreed to pay $120,000 a year rental for 20 years on a building in St. Paul that cost $300,000. On the strength of this lease, which was afterwards made noncancellable, promoters floated a bond issue of $1,150,000.

A post office station in Chicago, it is charged, is rented at $125,000 a year, while the government's share in building is $350,000. There are 115 of these leases on post office buildings throughout the country, it is claimed.

The St. Paul transaction "actually smells to high heaven," said Senator Dyer, who declared this deal is "a rotten, unconscionable situation."

"Possibly the situation at St. Paul rivals Teapot Dome revelations and the oil scandals in general. Perhaps there is as much to be saved to the American Association Bridge and Structural Iron Workers, died of heart disease at his home here. He was 67.

He was a Congressman from 1911 to 1917. While in Congress he was considered spokesman for labor on social legislation. He was an old-line trade unionist and was well known among North American trade unionists and sympathizers.

HARRY HOLTON PASSES ON

Alton, Ill., April 26.—Harry Holton, national treasurer Glass Bottle Blowers' Association, died in this city. He had served for years in that position and was well known in the glass industry. The funeral was largely attended by officers and members of that union and other members of organized labor.

FRANK BUCHANAN DEAD; WELL-KNOWN UNIONIST

Chicago, April 26.—Frank Buchanan, former Congressman from this city and one-time president Industrial Association Bridge and Structural Iron Workers, died of heart disease at his home here. He was 67.

He was a Congressman from 1911 to 1917. While in Congress he was considered spokesman for labor on social legislation. He was an old-line trade unionist and was well known among North American trade unionists and sympathizers.

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Cleared Channel For Labor's Radio Will Block Trust's Control Of Air

Washington, April 26.—An all-inclusive radio trust, often predicted, is now being formed.

Stockholders of the Radio Corporation of America will vote to issue an additional 7,500,000 shares of common stock and increase its no-par B preferred stock to 1,500,000 shares from 813,365.

The General Electric Company and the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company will be handed most of these new shares. Both corporations will extend their activities in the electric and wireless amusement fields through control of the radio system with its vast ramifications which include radio sets, phonographs, television and broadcasting.

The Columbia Graphophone Company will be swept in line. This will give the merger a wide foreign field that includes Europe and the Orient.

The merger will operate with the American Telephone and Telegraph Company and the International Telephone and Telegraph Company. As these concerns control the telephone, telegraph and radio fields every source of information will be in the hands of this combination.

Senator Dill of Washington declared on the floor of the Senate that the new merger will lead to a world-wide control of public opinion because the Radio Corporation of America has exclusive contracts with all governments save Russia.

This group is leading opposition to organized labor's demand for a clear channel for labor broadcasting station WCFL, Chicago. If labor loses this fight the last great domain falls under the control of exploiters who can even direct the nation's thought.

Senate Committee Rejects Parker; 'Yellow Dog' Jurist Loses, 10 To 6

Washington, April 26.—By a vote of 10 to 6 the Senate Judiciary Committee refused to confirm President Hoover's appointment of Judge Parker to the Supreme Court.

The Parker opponents were Senators Norris (chairman), Nebraska; Borah, Idaho; Deneen, Illinois; Robinson, Indiana; Blaine, Wisconsin; Steiwer, Oregon, all Republicans, and Walsh, Montana; Caraway, Arkansas; Ashurst, Arizona, and Dill, Washington, Democrats.

Those who voted for Parker were Senators Hebert, Rhode Island; Waterman, Colorado; Gillett, Massachusetts, and Hastings, Delaware, Republicans; Overman, North Carolina, and Stephens, Mississippi, Democrats. Senator King, Utah, Democrat, is in Europe because of illness.

This is the first time the Senate Judiciary Committee rejected a Supreme Court appointee since President Cleveland's nomination of W. B. Hornblower was adversely reported 36 years ago.

Parker's friends are dismayed over the turn of affairs and Senator Watson of Indiana, Republican floor leader, is quoted as saying that on precedent Parker is beaten.

Administration forces attempted to have the Senate Committee invite Parker to appear and explain his "yellow dog" decision and his slur at Negroes. Members of the committee, by a vote of 10 to 6, refused to invite him. The majority members took the position that they would hear Parker if he asked this privilege, but they had no occasion to invite him.

Senator Overman of North Carolina urged the committee to invite Parker, but only received the support of Senators Deneen, Hebert and Stephens.

President Green's fight against the "yellow dog" jurist has made marked headway and it is predicted that if the nomination reaches the floor of the Senate, every anti-Parker Progressive group will be lined up against him.

When the storm breaks, the "yellow dog" is due for a thorough discussion.

SENATORS ARE TOLD HOW MINERS EXIST

Indianapolis, April 26.—Conditions under which miners work and live was pictured by John L. Lewis, president United Mine Workers, in a letter to Senators protesting the appointment of Judge Parker.

"Judge Parker denied workers the right to act collectively to redress these conditions," said Mr. Lewis. "Then with all the long list of eminent legal minds, was it necessary for the President to appoint, and why is it necessary for the Senate to confirm, the elevation to the Supreme Court of Parker, the judge who, in the Red Jacket injunction suit, delivered 50,000 Americans into indentured servitude?

"Admittedly, the mine worker is unfortunately placed in the domestic economy of the nation; intermittently employed in an overdeveloped and intensely competitive industry, his annual earnings are meager and his bodily energies unjustifiably consistantly beset by the horror of underground work, his numbers are daily decimated by falling earth, breaking equipment, rush of water, noxious and explosive gases, occupational diseases and, generally, living and working often in isolated camps, devoid of modern sanitary and living conveniences, and lacking social, educational and spiritual advantages, his children are denied the inspirational outlook upon life which is given the sons and daughters of other men; recognizing the value of mutual association with his fellow mine workers and having the desire of a normal man to improve his lot, he is yet prevented by judicial decree, in large part, from collectively bargaining for his labor and denied the right as an employe to join the trade union of his choice.

IDLE ISSUE SOLVED (?) BY FOE OF UNIONISM

New York, April 26.—The Delaware & Hudson Railroad has "solved" the unemployment problem, according to President Loree, speaking at the annual meeting here of the National Metal Trades Association.

Mr. Loree explained that when a worker is laid off he is paid $15 a week for six weeks. This $90 is a "dismissal wage."

President Loree assured the convention that the fact of inability of men over 40 to secure work is "sob stuff."

The railroad official and Judge Gary of the steel trust smashed President Wilson's industrial conference several years ago. They refused to recognize collective bargaining.

WOULD PROTECT LABOR IN RAILROAD MERGERS

Washington, April 26.—Responsibility for caring for employes displaced by railroad mergers was imposed by Senator Hawes of Missouri. He has introduced an amendment to the interstate commerce act along these lines.

Standard railroad employes' organizations show that these mergers, which are generally promoted by financiers, will wreck communities because of an abandonment of terminals and railroad shops. Real estate values will be destroyed, and practically every member of these communities will be affected.

SLOW DOWN POLICY URGED ON FARMERS

Washington, April 26.—"Farmers can produce so much that they will have to sell at a loss," said Secretary of Agriculture Hyde, in a radio appeal to agriculturists to adopt a "slow down" policy.

The address sounded like a trade union call for less hours because of improved machinery and scientific processes.

"The theory that he who makes two blades of grass grow where one grew before is a public benefactor' does not harmonize with present conditions in the farming industry," said Secretary Hyde, who declared that the nation's farmers, through agricultural organization, can regulate production so as to avoid price-breaking surpluses.

"The regulation of crop production to the limits of the market demand must be one of the aims in a long-time agricultural policy," he said.

"Many a crop has sold at less than it cost to produce it. Many a scheme and many a law has been proposed to change that fact. Schemes and laws that neglect living in harmony with the law of supply and demand will change it.

"Farmers are those who say that all foods and fibers are, in the long run, consumed, and that, therefore, there is never a surplus of them. True it is that all foods are consumed—somewhere, some time and at some price. When there is a surplus the surplus price falls, entirely without regard to the cost of production, until enough have gone to waste or spoilage price levels can be satisfied. When a price-breaking surplus exists, the cost of production has nothing to do with the price.

"There is nothing economically sound or socially desirable about producing crops to sell at less than the cost of production."

IDLENESS IN EUROPE SEVERE LAST WINTER

Washington, April 26.—The world-wide industrial depression is reflected by reports of general unemployment in Europe during the past winter.

"Germany was severely affected hard hit," says the Monthly Bulletin, issued by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. "Although the situation in Great Britain is still acute, the number of unemployed appeared to be gradually diminishing at the end of 1929. The Baltic countries suffered from seasonal unemployment, as they are primarily agricultural countries. Unemployment in Italy appears to be increasing.

"In Czechoslovakia and Switzerland unemployment has been much less in late years than has been the case in other European countries. There were comparatively few out of work in Belgium and Sweden and the latter country has even been importing workers."

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM OF OREGON UNIONISTS

Portland, Ore., April 26.—Restriction of injunctions, the outlaw of the "yellow dog," state old-age pensions, free text books, ratification of the child labor amendment, restriction of Mexican aliens and increased benefits for injured workers are included in the legislative program of the Oregon State Federation of Labor.

MINERS WILL CONFER

Hazleton, Pa., April 26.—The three anthracite districts of the United Mine Workers will hold their tri-district convention in this city on April 30. Plans will be laid for the negotiation of a new contract. The present agreement expires August 30. It has been in effect since February, 1926, following a six-months' strike.

FOOD COSTS DROP

Washington, April 26.—A decrease in retail food prices of slightly less than 2 per cent between March 15 and February 15 is reported by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

HUGE CHAIN PROFITS

New York, April 26.—The Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, which operates a nation-wide chain of grocery stores, reports a profit last year of $24,219,631. This is equivalent to $11.77 for each share, and is after depreciation, Federal taxes and all other charges were met.